

# Westfield's Historic Preservation Commission



An Introduction  
to Historical  
Preservation in  
Westfield

The background is a solid blue gradient, darker at the bottom and lighter at the top. Near the top edge, there are several thin, wavy, light blue lines that create a sense of movement or a horizon line.

# Welcome

Kelly Kessler, Chair of Historic Preservation  
Commission



# Who are we?

- Members of the Commission:
  - Kelly Kessler
  - Maria Boyes
  - Robert Wendel
  - Jennifer Jaruzelski
  - Alison Carey
  - James Corcoran
  - Neal Acito
  - David Hagan
  - Joe Biren
  - Michael Fischer
  - Jen Czarnecki
  - Michael LaPlace- Planning Board Liason

# HPC Mission Statement

Recognizing the cultural significance of Westfield's rich historic and architectural heritage, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established by municipal ordinance in 1984. The HPC is charged with preserving historical sites and structures while fostering an appreciation for these landmarks as an essential element of the town's unique character.





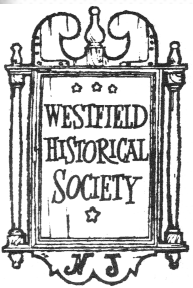
# HPC Mission Statement

The Commission considers potential sites for historic designation, reviews proposed work on designated historic properties, advises homeowners in planning and designing their construction projects, and submits recommendations to the Planning Board. Additionally, the Harry Devlin Awards program recognizes homeowners for commendable preservation efforts. By preserving Westfield's legacy, the Historic Preservation Commission strives to protect Westfield's original neighborhoods and provides a valuable link for generations to come.



# Who we are not

Difference between  
the Westfield  
Historical  
Society and the  
Westfield Historic  
Preservation  
Commission







# Differences in Organizations

## Westfield Historical Society

- Private Membership 501C3 Non-profit for the purpose of safeguarding artifacts from the past with which they educate the public
- Focused on restoring and maintaining the Miller Cory House Museum and the Reeve House so the Public can enjoy and learn
- Currently raising money to build a history education and archive facility that tells the story of Westfield

## Historic Preservation Commission

- Created by the town of Westfield in 1984 through NJ State MLUL Statute; provides a Planning Board framework and ordinance to protect historic streetscapes, homes and facades utilizing business and residential zoning measures



# What we do (and do not)

## What we do

- Survey the town to identify building, structures, sites, and/or areas for designation as historic landmarks or districts
- Maintain the survey
- Make recommendations to the Planning Board regarding designations
- Hear and decide applications for certificates of appropriateness
- Advise the Planning Board on applications for development in historic districts

## What we don't do

- We don't tell you what you can or can't do on the interior of your home but we can offer guidance on the exterior from an architectural and historic perspective
- An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness is not required for repainting, repair or exact reconstruction of an existing improvement.



# Why does Preservation Matter?

## *Because it...*

- Sustains the historic character of a community
- Creates a lasting, physical link between generations
- Preserves the legacy of major figures and significant events
- Provides a living classroom of distinctive architectural styles
- Contributes to the beautification of the town & its neighborhoods
- Cultivates charm and unique character, “a sense of place”
- Discourages demolition and inappropriate development
- Increases property values
- Fosters pride of ownership
- Strengthens civic bonds and shared community heritage



# How we hope to help

- Explain the HPC ordinance and our relationship with the other related government bodies
- Assist and guide homeowners navigating the process of preservation with various town departments
- Highlight and celebrate restored historic homes (award winners or otherwise) on a regular basis to promote a culture of smart restoration in Westfield.